

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
"Kamat Towers" 7th Floor, Patto Plaza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001
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Appeal No.137/2026/SCIC

Shri. Stephen Pereira,
Municipal Building,
Vasco Da Gama,
South Goa 403802. -----Appellant

V/s

The Public Information Officer,
Village Panchayat St. Andre, Goa Velha,
Tiswadi, Goa 403108 -----Respondent

Shri. ARAVIND KUMAR H. NAIR - State Chief Information Commissioner, GSIC

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

RTI application filed on	06/11/2025
PIO replied on	05/12/2025
First Appeal filed on	22/12/2025
First Appellate order on	06/03/2026
Second appeal received on	06/04/2026
First Hearing	14/05/2026
Decided on	14/05/2026

Information sought and Background of the Appeal

1. Shri. Stephen Pereira filed an application dated 06/11/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 to the PIO, O/o. BDO, Tiswadi, Goa seeking information at 27 points inconnection with the Renovation and Beautification work of Park in property bearing Survey No. 26/2, St. Anthony Waddo, Ward No. 05, Village Panchayat, St. Andre, Goa.
2. BDO, Tiswadi/PIO vide letter dated 11/11/2025 transferred the application to the PIO, Secretary, Village Panchayat, St. Andre u/s 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005 on the ground that the information sought at Point No. 01-13 and 15-27 pertains to the Village Panchayat, St. Andre.

3. Material available on record indicates that PIO, Village Panchayat St. Andre vide letter dated 05/12/2025 replied/furnished information to the Appellant supported by copies of documents sought by the Appellant.
4. Subsequently, Appellant filed first appeal dated 22/12/2025 before the First Appellate Authority (FAA) stating that the reason given by the Respondent PIO for not furnishing information in respect of RTI query No. 06, 09, 10, 18, 19 and 23 is vague.
5. First Appellate Authority (BDO, Tiswadi, Goa) vide order dated 06/03/2026 dismissed first appeal of the Appellant stating that "*the Advocate for the Appellant satisfied with the information furnished by the Respondent PIO and hence nothing survive in the matter*".
6. Appellant then preferred second appeal dated 06/04/2026 before the Commission praying -
 - i. *To conduct an inquiry into the conduct of the Respondent PIO and concerned officials for suppressing information initially and providing subsequently.*
 - ii. *Impose penalty on the Respondent PIO u/s 20 of the RTI Act, 2005 for malafide denial of information.*
 - iii. *Initiate disciplinary action against the Respondent PIO.*

FACTS EMERGING IN COURSE OF HEARING

7. Pursuant to the filing of the present appeal by the Appellant, matter took up for hearing for which Respondent PIO (Secretary, Village Panchayat, St. Andre) present in person and the Appellant was represented by Adv. Nikhita Chopdekar.
8. Upon perusal of the material available on record, Commission found that -

- i. *Appellant's RTI application dated 06/11/2025 was originally filed before the O/o. BDO, Tiswadi, Goa instead of PIO, Village Panchayat, St. Andre, Tiswadi Taluka, Goa.*
- ii. *On receipt of the RTI application on 07/11/2025, PIO & BDO, Tiswadi, Panaji, Goa vide letter dated 11/11/2025 transferred the RTI application to the PIO (Secretary, Village Panchayat St. Andre) u/s 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005 with the request to furnish information in respect of Point No. 01-13 and 15-27 to the Applicant.*
- iii. *PIO, Village Panchayat St. Andre vide letter dated 05/12/2025 furnished information supported by documents to RTI queries except Point No. 06, 09, 18, 19, 22 and 23.*
- iv. *Out of the above cited 06 points, PIO had requested the Appellant to specify what exactly he sought under Point No. 06 and 23 and for the remaining 04 points (09, 18, 19 and 22), reply of the PIO was "No information available".*
- v. *During the hearing before the First Appellate Authority (BDO, Tiswadi) on 06/02/2026, Appellant's lawyer submitted that certain document sought was not furnished initially citing 'non-availability' but later provided the same creating doubt.*
- vi. *Respondent PIO's contention was that initially few documents were not available but after further search, said documents were found and accordingly furnished to the Appellant.*
- vii. *First Appellate Authority dismissed Appellant's first appeal as the lawyer for the Appellant satisfied with the information provided by the Respondent PIO.*

DECISION

1. Commission could not find any wilful denial of information or inordinate delay in furnishing the sought information by the Respondent PIO, who on the otherhand noticed for promptly responding or furnishing the sought information to the Appellant after receiving the RTI application on transfer from the office of the BDO, Tiswadi.

2. Respondent PIO (Secretary, Village Panchayat St. Andre) could not initially furnish information to certain RTI queries of the Appellant but subsequently furnished the same to the satisfaction of the Appellant's lawyer leading to the dismissal of Appellant's first appeal by the First Appellate Authority (BDO, Tiswadi).

3. Since the Respondent PIO has furnished information to the Appellant's 27 - point RTI application and the First Appellate Authority dismissed first appeal on the ground that Appellant's lawyer is satisfied with the information furnished by the Respondent PIO, Commission could not find any justification to the Appellant's prayer for an inquiry into the conduct of the Respondent PIO and to initiate penal as well as disciplinary action against the Respondent PIO for malafide denial of information.

4. Since Commission could not find any malafide denial of information by the Respondent PIO or any lapse in the obligations cast upon him under the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005, present appeal does not warrant the intervention of the Commission.

- Matter disposed.
- Proceeding stands closed.
- Pronounced in open court.
- Notify the parties.

Aggrieved party if any, may move against this order by way of a Writ Petition as no further Appeal is provided against this order under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Sd/-

(ARAVIND KUMAR H. NAIR)
State Chief Information Commissioner, GSIC